

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
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RE: BEVERLY MIDDLE SCHOOL BUILDING COMMITTEE VOTES TO SUBMIT ITS SCHEMATIC DESIGN TO MSBA

On Tuesday July 28, 2015, the Beverly Middle School Building Committee voted in favor of authorizing the City to submit its Schematic Design package to the MSBA (Massachusetts School Building Authority) for its review. The MSBA is the quasi-independent government authority that will be funding a significant portion of the project in partnership with the City of Beverly.

The next step will be an MSBA Board of Directors meeting on September 30th during which they will vote to approve the project funding agreement, thereby immediately commencing the Detailed Design phase of the project. The City, along with members of the design team, have worked steadily to control costs while building a world class school. The portion of the total cost to be borne by the City is estimated at \$60 million. The new middle school is scheduled to open in September of 2018 and will house 1,395 students in grades five through eight.

Following the vote by the Beverly Middle School Building Committee, Mayor Cahill said, "We are one big step closer to opening the world class, 21st century middle school our children and our community need. Further, we have already cut nearly \$15 million from earlier cost projections and we'll continue to strive to cut costs throughout the project. Come September, 2018 we will have built the beautiful, great school that our City both needs and can afford."

Bryant Ayles, the City of Beverly's Director of Finance, stated "This \$60M estimated cost to the City is affordable. We have made significant efforts over the past few Fiscal Years to prepare the City for this and this revised cost estimate fits within the City's current financial capacity."

Chairperson of the Beverly School Committee, Paul Manzo, stated "I think we are all looking forward to opening our four-year middle school that improves consistency across our secondary level curriculum, provides for improved student growth during the middle school years, and increases parental involvement in our middle school community."

Dr. Steven Hiersche, Superintendent of Beverly Public Schools stated: "It is exciting to be closer to the culmination of Beverly's plan to have an outstanding PreK-12 education in world class facilities. The Middle School educational program and vision emphasizes the opportunity and the continuity that works so well with this 5 – 8 age group. Students in this age group are not only curious but beginning to form their ideas about the future. With the ability to deliver a hands-on experience for students emphasizing STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math), Global connections, and robust arts our students will be prepared for their future. This project has been many years in the making resulting in a truly exciting opportunity the students of Beverly deserve."

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